BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation).		
Against:)		
•)		
) ,		•
Robert Lee Roosevelt Gibbs, M.D.)	Case No. 8	800-2015-017182
· .) ,		
Physician's and Surgeon's)	• •	
Certificate No. A 73898)		•
)		
Respondent)		
·	_)		
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DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED: February 11, 2019.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Ronald N. Lewis, M.D., G

Panel A

1	XAVIER BECERRA					
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO	·				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINE FRIAR					
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 228421					
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702					
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6472					
7	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 Attorneys for Complainant					
8		•				
9		RE THE				
10	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
	STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
11						
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2015-017182				
13	ROBERT LEE ROOSEVELT GIBBS, M.D.	OAH No. 2018070510				
14	24325 Crenshaw Blvd., #283 Torrance, CA 90505	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND				
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73898,	DISCIPLINARY ORDER				
16	ĺ.					
17	Respondent.					
18	·					
19						
20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGE	EED by and between the parties to the above-				
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:					
22	<u>PARTIES</u>					
23	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board					
24	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in					
25	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Christine R. Friar,					
26	Deputy Attorney General.					
27	2. Respondent Robert L.R. Gibbs, M.D	(Respondent) is represented in this proceeding				
28	by attorneys Peter R. Osinoff and Carolyn Lindholm of Bonne Bridges Mueller O'Keefe &					

Nichols, located at 355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1750, Los Angeles, California 90071.

3. On February 8, 2001, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73898 to Robert L.R. Gibbs, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2015-017182, and will expire on August 31, 2020, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 800-2015-017182 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 16, 2018. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2015-017182 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2015-017182. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2015-017182 and that he has thereby subjected his license to disciplinary action.
- 10. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2015-017182 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State of California.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 73898 issued to Respondent Robert L.R. Gibbs, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for thirty-five (35) months on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.
- 2. MONITORING PRACTICE. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with Respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in Respondent's field of practice, and must agree to serve as Respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands the role

of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout probation, Respondent's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a monitor within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine until a monitor is approved to provide monitoring responsibility.

The monitor(s) shall submit a quarterly written report to the Board or its designee which includes an evaluation of Respondent's performance, indicating whether Respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of medicine, and whether Respondent is practicing medicine safely, billing appropriately or both. It shall be the sole responsibility of Respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

In lieu of a monitor, Respondent may participate in a professional enhancement program approved in advance by the Board or its designee that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart

review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at Respondent's expense during the term of probation.

3. NOTIFICATION: Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 4. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE</u>

 <u>NURSES.</u> During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- 5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 6. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

7. <u>GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.</u>

Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

Address Changes

Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and

residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Place of Practice

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

License Renewal

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Travel or Residence Outside California

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
departure and return.

- 8. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 9. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall

comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Board's Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

- 10. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 11. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have

continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

- 12. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. Following the effective date of this Decision, if Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 13. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorneys, Peter R. Osinoff and Carolyn Lindholm. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 11/30/18

ROBERT L.R. GIBBS, M.D.

Respondent

1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Robert L.R. Gibbs, M.D. the terms and				
2	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.				
3					
4					
. 5	DATED: 11/30/18 (Grob On 1/40/M				
6	PETER R. OSINOFF CAROLYN LINDHOLM				
7	Attorneys for Respondent				
8					
9	ENDORSEMENT				
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully				
11	submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.				
12	Dated: 11/30 2018 Respectfully submitted,				
13	XAVIER BECERRA				
14	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO				
15	Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
16	(0)				
17	CHRISTINE R. FRIAR				
18	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant				
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2015-017182

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1	THITIER DECERRA					
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO	FILED				
·3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General	STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
3	CHRISTINE FRIAR Deputy Attorney General	PACKABENIO YIMY ILD ON 18				
4	State Bar No. 228421	BY: YOU'S WANALYST				
5	1 Spring Surces, Suite 1702					
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6472					
7	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 Attorneys for Complainant					
		•				
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA					
. 9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
10	STATE OF	CALIFORNIA				
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2015-017182				
12	ROBERT LEE ROOSEVELT GIBBS, M.D.	ACCUSATION				
13	24325 Crenshaw Blvd., #283 Torrance, CA 90505					
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate					
15	No. A 73898,					
16.	Respondent.					
17.						
18	Complainant alleges:	- ·				
19	PAR	TIES				
20	Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant)	brings this Accusation solely in her official				
21	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer					
22	Affairs (Board).					
23	2. On or about February 8, 2001, the Bo	ard issued Physician's and Surgeon's Cortificate				
24	2. On or about February 8, 2001, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 73898 to Robert Lee Roosevelt Gibbs, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full					
25	force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31,					
26	2018, unless renewed.					
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27	///					
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(ROBERT L. R. GIBBS, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2015-017182

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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the 4. Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, be placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
 - Section 2234 of the Code states: 5.

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct.

"In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care."

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

- 6. Respondent Robert Lee Roosevelt Gibbs, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b), in that he committed gross negligence when he failed to recognize osteomyelitis (bone infection) and compartment syndrome in Patient A¹ despite clear signs and symptoms. The circumstances are as follows:
- 7. On or about February 21, 2013, Patient A, a six-year old male, presented to the Orthopaedic Institute for Children (Orthopaedic) for care and treatment. Approximately nine days earlier, Patient A had injured his right ankle while at school. Specifically, he had a closed fracture of the lateral malleolus, a closed fracture of the distal end of the tibia (ankle fracture) and was in considerable pain. Patient A had originally been treated at Centinela Hospital where x-rays were taken and his ankle was splinted.
- 8. On February 21, 2013, additional x-rays were taken of Patient A's ankle and he was placed in a long leg cast.
- 9. On March 7, 2013, Patient A returned to Orthopaedic. Patient A complained of pain and the long leg cast was cut down to a short leg cast. Additional imaging was done of Patient A's right ankle.
- On March 12, 2013, Patient A returned to Orthopaedic and was treated by
 Respondent, who at all relevant times was employed there as an Emergency Room physician.
- 11. Respondent notes in Patient A's medical record that Patient A's leg is very painful and swollen. Respondent described Patient A's pain as out of proportion to the injury. Respondent documented that he reviewed the February 21, 2013 x-ray and removed Patient A's cast. It was further noted that Patient A had suffered from a fever since March 8, 2013, had slow capillary refill (pallor) and pain when moving toes.

¹ The patient referenced in this Accusation shall be referred to exclusively as "Patient A." The true name is known to Respondent and will be disclosed to Respondent upon his request for discovery.

- 12. Additional x-rays were also taken. The radiologist noted that the "primary consideration is osteomyelitis" (bone infection) in the right tibia and fibula.
- 13. Respondent did not, however, diagnose Patient A with osteomyelitis or refer Patient A for further work up. Instead Respondent referred Patient A to a pain management specialist and put Patient A's right leg in a short leg splint.
- 14. Because Respondent failed to order Patient A for a further work up despite the radiologist's concerns about osteomyelitis, there was a delay in treatment of Patient A's bone infection. Ultimately, Patient A developed compartment syndrome which required extensive treatment and will require two osteotomy surgeries.
- 15. Compartment syndrome is typically diagnosed according to symptoms. Specifically, pain, paresthesia, pallor, paralysis, pulselessness, and poikliothermia. When some of these problems are noted, compartment syndrome should be entertained.
- 16. Respondent's referral of Patient A to a pain management specialist, instead of admitting him to the hospital after the x-ray showed a possible osteomyelitis, constituted an extreme departure from the applicable standard of care in the medical community.
- 17. Respondent's failure to recognize the signs and symptoms of compartment syndrome was an extreme departure from the standard of care.
- 18. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 7 through 17, inclusive, above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute gross negligence pursuant to section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code. As such, cause for discipline exists.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

19. Respondent Robert Lee Roosevelt Gibbs, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c), in that he committed repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of Patient A when he failed to recognize osteomyelitis (bone infection) and compartment syndrome in Patient A despite clear signs and symptoms. The circumstances are as follows: